

Welfare \$21 Million In Berrien

*Social Services Board
Says Spending Up
\$2.8 Million*

BY BRANDON BROWN
Staff Writer

Berrien county social services board gave county commissioners a report Tuesday showing welfare aid to the aged, blind, disabled, dependent children, medical assistance and Food Stamp bonuses for 1972 cost \$21.6 million, up almost \$2.8 million from the year before.

The social services board hosted commissioners at a luncheon at the welfare department in Benton township to bring them abreast of 1972 costs, pending welfare legislation and county social services programs.

According to the 1972 report, aid to dependent children (ADC) cost \$10.2 million (\$8.6 million in 1971), medical assistance cost an estimated \$5 million (was \$4 million), aid to the blind cost \$1.3 million (was \$1 million), Food Stamp bonuses cost \$2 million (was \$2.5 million), administrative charges cost \$1.7 million (was \$1.4 million), and general assistance cost \$78,692 (was \$111,365), among others.

Food Stamp bonuses, the "free" purchasing power the

Lots Inside--

Berrien General Hospital shaves costs, still losing money, asks help—Page 14. Citizens of Allegan county's Douglas area vow to keep full-service hospital going—front page, section 3. Berrien county has two residents with chance at \$200,000 prize in this week's lottery drawing—Page 3.

These are just some of outstanding Southwestern Michigan illustrated news developments you'll find on inside pages. Plus, of course, state, national and world news.

Department of Agriculture gives low income persons, dropped for 1972 because the federal government cut bonuses and increased amounts stamp buyers must pay, according to Wesley P. Bowerman, county social services director.

He estimated the county department reached approximately 20,000 welfare clients, low-income families, oldsters, blind, disabled, neglected children and others in 1972.

The social services board asked commissioners to adopt a resolution opposing a section of House Bill 4156, said to be in committee in Lansing, that takes away local board appointment of county welfare directors in return for increased state payments for rent and administrative costs.

The change would save Berrien taxpayers some \$75,000-\$100,000 annually in rent and administrative costs but would result in local directors with allegiance to Lansing rather than

(See back page, sec. 1, col. 1)

Berrien Asks Joint Action In Time Fight

The Berrien county board of commissioners Tuesday took another lonely swing at trying to get the county transferred to the Central Time zone to avoid

"double daylight" saving time. Commissioners learned the Department of Transportation has denied a February request of the board for transfer of Berrien county from the Eastern to the Central time zone. Another letter from Governor Milliken's office said such a switch would be inappropriate.

However, board members unanimously backed another resolution submitted by Commissioner Carl Gnodtke that all contiguous counties—Cass and Van Buren—be contacted and asked to participate in a joint request for transfer to the Central time zone. Cass county commissioners have voted for transfer to the Central zone but Van Buren has not acted despite earlier promptings.

Western leather, fringe & winter jackets, reduced 25 percent. Tacy's Saddle Shop, M-140, Watervliet. Adv.

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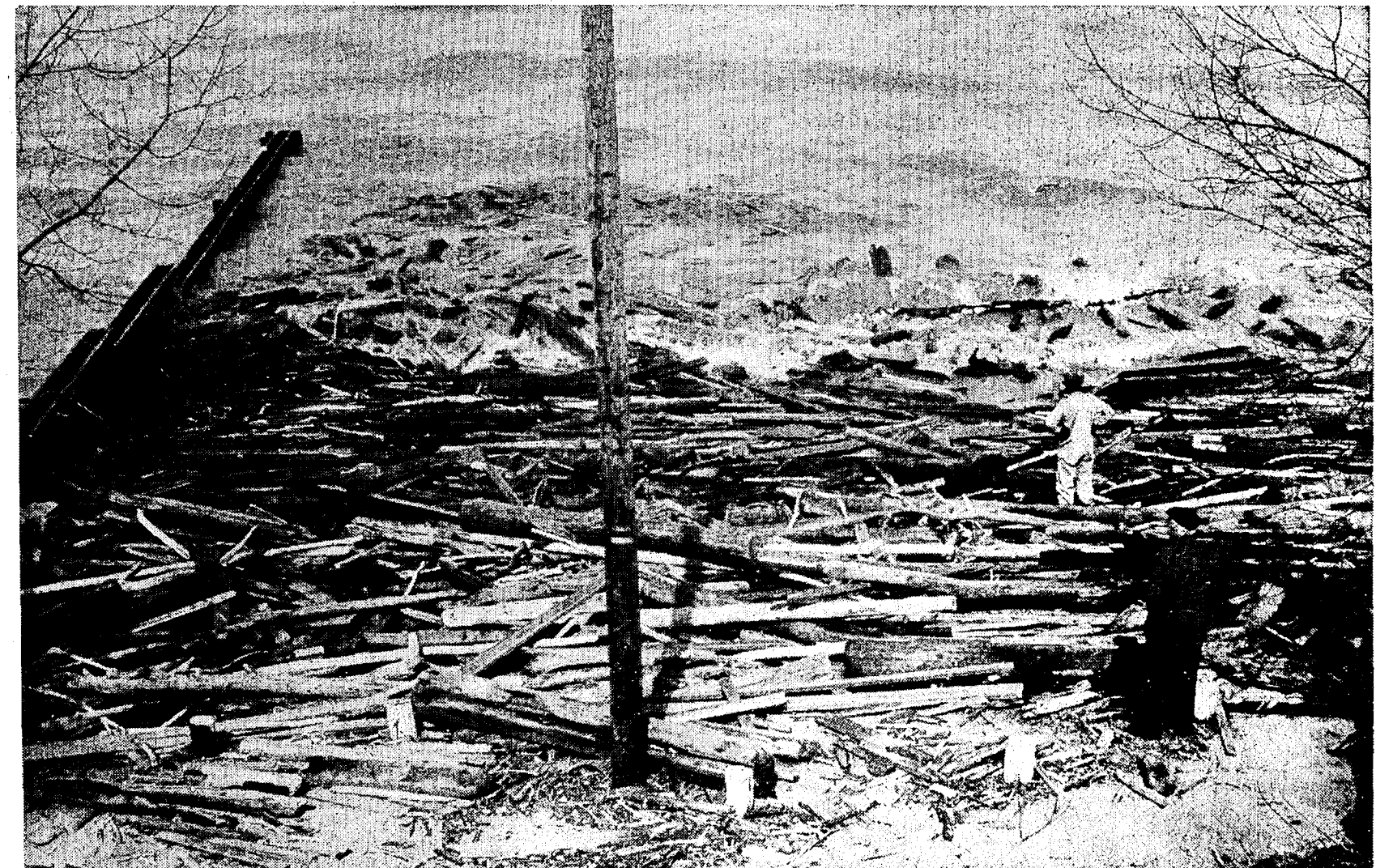
Fairplain Plaza Supplement 12 Pages



FOR BEACHCOMBERS: Jetties at Rocky Gap park trapped an assortment of wood washed up by Lake Michigan in last weekend's storm. Some of it is wor-

thless, but there are pieces from which beachcombers can fashion bric-a-brac. And who knows but what some spar or plank of LaSalle's ill-fated Griffin, or Captain

Stines' Chicora, might not lie among the debris? (Staff photos by Chief Photographer Charles Zindler)



'WHEN PINE WAS KING': This scene is almost reminiscent of the great 19th century logging drives on the Manistee and Pere Marquette when timber from

Michigan built the cities of the midwest. Actually, it's the aftermath of a March, 1973, storm when thousands of feet of timber washed up along the Lake Michigan

shoreline. This jam is at Rocky Gap park, north of the Twin Cities. Some of the logs and lumber were being removed for construction purposes. (Staff photo)

Court Rules School Property Tax Legal

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court today in a 5 to 4 decision upheld the local property tax for financing public schools.

The majority reversed a three-judge federal court which ruled that the Texas system of school finance violates the 14th Amendment's guarantee of equal protection of the laws.

The lower court had ruled that the system discriminates against the poor by making the school quality dependent on local, rather than state wealth.

All states except Hawaii depend in large part on the property tax to finance schools.

Justice Lewis F. Powell Jr., writing for the majority, noted that the court was not endorsing the status quo.

"The need is apparent for reform in tax systems which may well have relied too long and too heavily on the local property tax," Powell wrote. "But the ultimate solution must come from the lawmakers and from the democratic pressures of those who elect them."

Also in the majority were Chief Justice Warren E. Burger, and Justices Potter Stewart, Harry A. Blackmun and William H. Rehnquist.

Critics of the lower court decision had predicted that Supreme Court approval of it would bring not only a reshaping of school finance across the nation, but also "a generation of litigation" aimed at such other services as police protection and health care.

**"FIRST I suggest that we try to cope with your own family
—THEN we can try to cope with the Loud family!"**



A MONTH AGO: Lake Michigan had made severe encroachments on Jean Klock park when damage was inspected in February by Pete Mitchell, assistant director of public services for Benton Harbor. Last

weekend's storm was fatal blow for this section of walk which is in exact area as shown in accompanying picture. (Staff photos)



NOW: About 100 yards of sidewalk went over the bank at Benton Harbor's Jean Klock park in last weekend's wind storm on Lake Michigan. Destruction is at north

end of park looking toward St. Joseph. Some 100 tons of sand will be dumped along edge of remaining sidewalk in attempt to save it.

BH Man Has Chance At \$200,000 Prize!

Louis Dockins Assured Of At Least \$10,000



LOUIS DOCKINS
Another Berrien Winner

Louis Dockins, 51, of 686 East Main street, Benton Harbor, is entered in the \$200,000 state lottery super prize drawing in Lansing Thursday. He is assured of at least \$10,000.

The inclusion of Dockins gives Berrien county two entries in the drawing, scheduled for 9:45 a.m. at Lansing Mall.

Dockins and James Schwark, 32, of Three Oaks, who was featured in this newspaper Tuesday, are Berrien's first super drawing entries.

Dockins, a molder and veteran employee of Auto Specialties Manufacturing Co., with a 25-year service watch from the firm, didn't know he was a big contender until Tuesday.

It was reported that Dockins' ticket initially was processed as a \$25 winner. A double-check showed that both sets of numbers on the ticket were winners.

Dockins said he bought his ticket at Bizer's store, 282 Empire, Benton Harbor.

Dockins is assured of winning \$10,000 in the drawing. It could be more, if he's lucky. And, one of the 11 entries from throughout the state will be a \$200,000 winner. Dockins of Benton Harbor and Schwark of Three Oaks, each has a shot at it.

'Blondie' Strip Will Continue

The recent death of Chic Young, creator of the Blondie comic strip that appears daily in this newspaper, will have no effect on the strip, according to King Features, distributors of the famous strip.

For the last 25 years, Jim Raymond has done all the drawing on the strip and will continue to do so. For the past 10 years,

Dean Young, Chic's son, has worked with his father in writing the gags.

Chic has been totally inactive for the past year due to his illness and Raymond and Dean have been creating the strip entirely on their own.

Battle Over Police Force Will Continue

Showdown Promised At Township Meeting

A last-ditch fight, right up to the last minute, will be fought by St. Joseph township residents opposed to establishment of a township police department due to begin operations April 1, according to William Achterberg.

The battle is scheduled to be fought at the annual township meeting scheduled for Saturday, March 31—the day before the new department officially starts.

Achterberg of 761 Valley View drive, St. Joseph township, said there is still time to halt the department before any money is actually spent. He said he objects mainly to the method by which the new police department was created and said the annual meeting would be the time when the issue could be thrashed out.

Achterberg disputes St. Joseph Township Supervisor Orval L. Benson and Township Attorney John Crow that the rescinding of the police department action is beyond the people at the annual meeting.

He urged a large turnout at the annual meeting. "This is the one time of the year when the people have as much power as the board," Achterberg said of the annual meeting. Achterberg said he is not so much against the decision to establish the township police department but the manner in

which it was enacted. "I think," he said, "the people should have a voice in whether they want it this way or that."

He said the nearly 1,100 signatures on petitions supported this position. The petition asks the township board to rescind its action, objects to the method the board used to form the department and asks the law enforcement be under contract with the Berrien County Sheriff's department.

Achterberg, a Lakeshore junior high teacher, was one of the original deputies who started the township patrol. He said he worked to get the contract with the sheriff's department developed four years ago. He said he was named by the sheriff to act as liaison officer between the sheriff's department and the township. Then abruptly the township broke off talks and said they were going to start their own department.

Car Ring Smashed

TAYLOR, Mich. (AP)—Three men from this downriver Detroit suburb have been arrested in what State Police call the smashing of a stolen car ring responsible for the theft and resale of more than 100 cars.

Cure Worse Than Problem

Emil Spiese, 310 Wallace avenue, St. Joseph, got a pesky raccoon out of his chimney but he is wondering if the furry rodent didn't have the last laugh.

Spiese built a small fire of paper in his fireplace to drive the raccoon out and to prevent its return put a lid on the chimney.

When he returned home at 5 p. m. Tuesday he found the house full of smoke. St. Joseph firemen, who brought a smoke ejector and aired out the house, theorized that burning embers in the fireplace ignited wood on the grate which smoldered for hours.

Fairplain Burglary Suspect Arrested

Berrien county sheriff's detectives yesterday arrested a Benton Harbor man in connection with the breaking and entering of the home of Harry Grenawitzke, 555 Napier avenue, Fairplain, on Feb. 24. Booked and lodged in the county jail on charges of breaking and entering and violation of probation was Ollie Willis, 25, of 310 Colby street. He was arrested Tuesday at about 9:30 p.m. according to detective Fred Reeves.

Berrien sheriff's officers also served warrants from Van Buren county on two Berrien county men. The men were transported to the Van Buren county sheriff's office.

Arrested on a charge of breaking and entering was Conrad Blevins, 38, of Britain avenue, Bainbridge township. Arrested on a charge of larceny from a vehicle was Dennis Johnson, 1244 McAllister avenue, Benton Harbor.



C OF C BROCHURE CITED: Three awards were presented Tuesday for excellence in graphic arts production of Twin Cities Area Chamber of Commerce's prospectus "Twin Cities Area — Grow With Us." The awards were conferred by Watervliet Paper Co., Division of Hammermill Paper Co. From left: David L. McFall, sales manager, Watervliet Paper Co.; Roger Curry, executive vice president of the Chamber

of Commerce; Randall (Red) Burch, president of Burch Printers, which printed brochure; Howard Paxson, board chairman, Paxson Economic Productions, producers of brochure; and W. Craig McClelland, president, Watervliet Paper. The brochure was printed on Watervliet Paper. McFall said about a dozen of these awards have been presented nationally in the past year and a half.

BH Lists Trash Pick-Ups Spring Clean-Up Planned

Weather permitting, Benton Harbor will launch its major spring clean-up effort next week, with operations scheduled for one week in each of the five regular trash pickup districts.

Besides trash, residents may put out for pickup almost anything—from old furniture to refrigerators (provided their doors are removed in compliance with state law).

City Manager Charles Morrison listed the following schedules:

District 1 (Monday pickup area)—March 26-30; District 2 (Tuesday area)—April 2-6; District 3 (Wednesday area)—April 9-13; District 4 (Thursday area)—April 16-20; and District 5 (Friday area)—April 23-27.

ELECTRONIC BRAIN AIDS POLICE

Berrien Sheriff's LIEN Computer System Always At Work

By SCOTT WILLIAMSON
Staff Writer

The room is bathed in a somber, semi-darkness, illuminated only by two small tensor lamps over two control consoles.

A digital clock encased inside a large tape recorder ticks

away the seconds—it's 4:05:32 a.m. Thousands of tiny pinpricks of light peep through cooling holes in complicated equipment.

Suddenly the still is cracked by a voice from the darkness: "31-Berrien LEIN"

"Like a registration and file on George Boy David Nine One Three. GBD913. Clear?"

"Stand-by, 31"

An operator goes into action on a machine that looks like

part-typewriter, part-computer. Fingers fly, the machine

clatters into action, a string of

perforated tape spits forth from one side, and a typewritten sheet emerges from the top.

"Berrien-Three One."

"Berrien?"

"Negative your file, registered to John Doe on a 1970

Ford Maverick. Clear."

"Thanks, Berrien."

"K-L-Y 871 at 4:06."

The described scene occurs hundreds of times a day at the

communications bureau at the Berrien county sheriff's department.

Basically, what happened, was a deputy ran a computer check on a vehicle he had stopped to see if the vehicle was stolen, and to whom it was registered or if the driver is wanted on a warrant.

When a police officer stops your car for a traffic offense or some other reason and takes your license back to the patrol car, this is why you are kept waiting momentarily.

LEIN stands for Law Enforcement Information Network, a complex system of computers, telephones, equipment, and men.

In the previous sequence, a Berrien sheriff's department deputy used his car radio to call the communications bureau at the department.

Since the vehicle was not reported as stolen, and no other discrepancies arose, the deputy returned the driver's license and released him.

After the LEIN operator had punched up the message, the message was routed into the LEIN computer in Lansing, and also to a computer in the Michigan secretary of state's office.

The process required about two minutes. The LEIN computer checks its memory banks to see if the vehicle is stolen, and the secretary of state's office finds the needed information concerning the vehicle.

Had the vehicle been stolen, the driver would have been taken into custody, and officers would have checked with the police department that reported the car stolen to confirm it.

"LEIN is the biggest boon to law enforcement since the invention of the two-way radio," states Lt. Nigel Krickhahn, communications officer at the sheriff's department.

In 1972, Krickhahn said, the department processed 165,441 transactions, of which 1,343 were "hits." A "hit" is when the check returns positive, i.e., the car is stolen, a person is wanted on a warrant, or other police matters.

Fifty-one stolen autos were recovered, 29 license plates recovered, and 10 guns or other articles recovered.

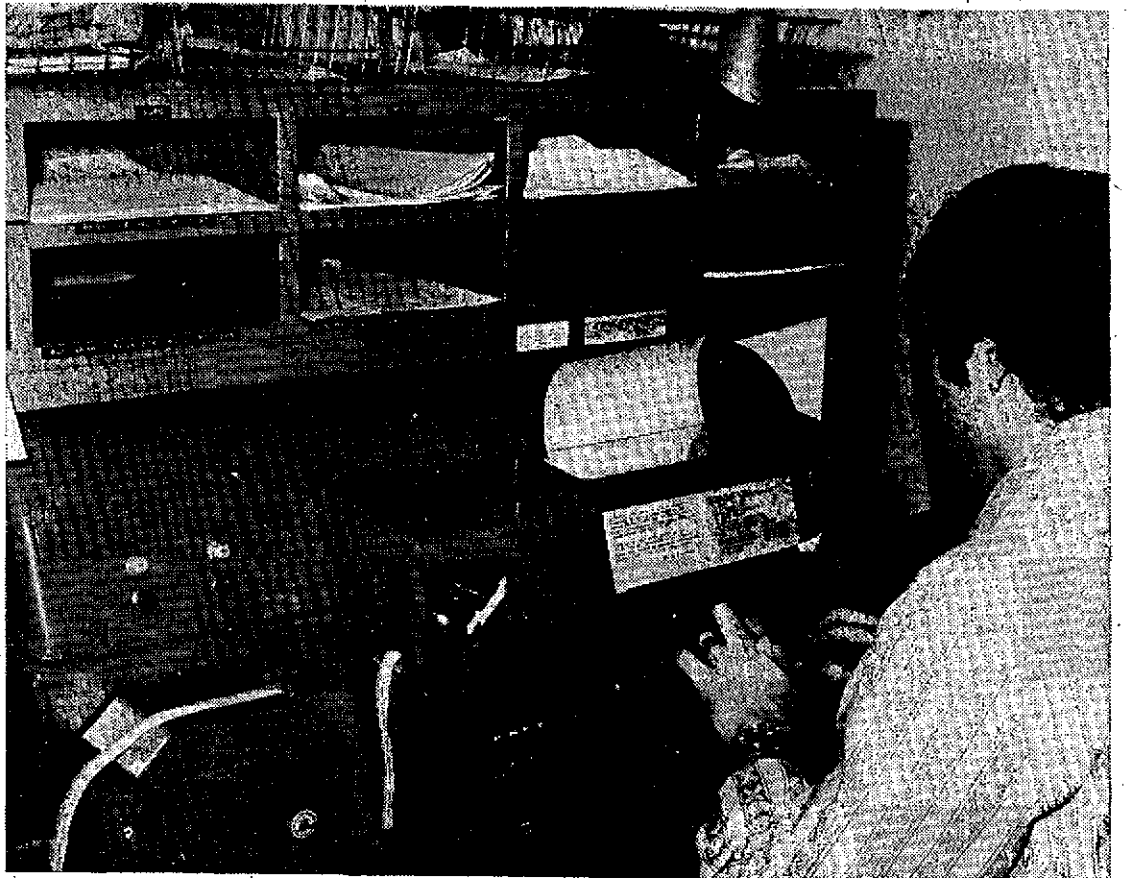
LEIN is used by 13 police departments in Berrien county, excluding state police posts. The cost to the departments is low, as only paper and other supplies, and the operator's salaries, must be paid for.

The system is paid for by the State of Michigan, or actually, rented from the Bell Telephone System. Krickhahn said it costs about \$400 a month for rent and tie-in. The computers, however, are owned by the state.

LEIN also has a hook-up to the NCIC (National Crime Information Center) in Washington, which processes file checks for warrants and the like.

LEIN is also used to send messages or requests to other police departments throughout the state, Krickhahn said. He noted there are 240 terminal hook-ups in the statewide system.

LEIN operators are kept busy, for example, from midnight to noon recently, the department handled 243 messages. As the interview ended, a voice crackled over the radio, "33-Berrien-LEIN." The machinery hummed to life again.



SENDS LEIN REQUEST: LEIN operator Dean Kugle sends request to Law Enforcement Information Network computer to find if vehicle is stolen, and to whom

it is registered. Computer will scan memory banks and return answer in less than two minutes. (Staff photo)

\$381,000 Price Tag

Douglas Residents Want To Keep Their Hospital

By DAVE ANDREWS
Staff Writer

DOUGLAS — Residents of this area served by Douglas Community hospital left little doubt last night that they want a full-service hospital maintained in the community.

But it will be up to the hospital's board of trustees Thursday night to make the final determination on future level of operation.

More than 250 citizens turned out at St. Peter's school for a meeting called by the hospital board to get community sentiment on four alternative plans for the hospital advanced by professional consultants.

Upgrading is being required because of state licensing requirements. Without the changes, a provisional operating license, which expires Jan. 1, 1974, would not be renewed, forcing the hospital to cease operations. Plans for the changes must be filed with the state by March 31.

In a standing vote at the close of two hours of discussion, the crowd was virtually unanimous behind the first proposal, despite a \$381,000 price tag.

The proposal also has unanimous support of the hospital's medical staff, but is contrary to the recom-

mendation of the planning firm, which wants to drop maternity service in any case.

If accepted by the board of trustees, the hospital would undertake a major modernization program necessary to bring the facility into full compliance with state licensing regulations and continue to maintain existing services, including obstetrical department.

The modernization would include building additions adjoining obstetrical and surgical sections of the hospital, plus improvements in ventilation, allocation of space within the building and electrical changes. It also would involve installation of a freight elevator to the basement and an additional stairway to the basement.

Second alternative offered by Donald Pound, master planner for Danielson, Schultz & company, Lansing, would undertake physical plant modifications necessary to meet licensing requirements, but eliminate maternity. Cost is estimated at \$286,000.

Third alternative also would eliminate maternity service, but schedule modifications in phases to spread out the capital costs.

The fourth alternative advanced would involve closing the hospital as an acute care facility, using the building for other purposes, such as a nursing home.

Nine of 11 members of the hospital's board attended the meeting, according to Derek Marshall, hospital administrator. The other two members of the board are out of state, he said. Chairman Earl Sorenson presided.

Douglas Community hospital primarily serves residents in Saugatuck, Clyde, Manlius and Ganges townships, including villages of Douglas and Saugatuck. Total population of the area is 8,738.

Pound, who said it is his specific recommendation that maternity service be eliminated, pointed to 1972 statistics showing only 91 births at the hospital. He said 35 per cent of the time the four-bed section had no patients.

With such low utilization, Pound said, he is concerned over ability of the hospital to continue providing the highest level of care in the future.

Pound also said that only 36 per cent of the maternity cases of the primary, four-township service area are now using Douglas hospital and that other

hospitals in South Haven, Holland, Allegan and Zeeland provide all residents of the four townships with 20-minute access to an alternative hospital.

Dr. Dale Plapp, chief of the medical staff, said that doctors unanimously favor retention of maternity service.

He was supported by Dr. William Shock, who said that without maternity service that the community would find it extremely difficult in the future to attract physicians into the area.

To go ahead with the full program, most of the estimated \$381,000 cost would have to be raised by residents of the area, Pound indicated. No state or federal funds are available, he said, and operating receipts from the hospital are not sufficient to underwrite that much money.

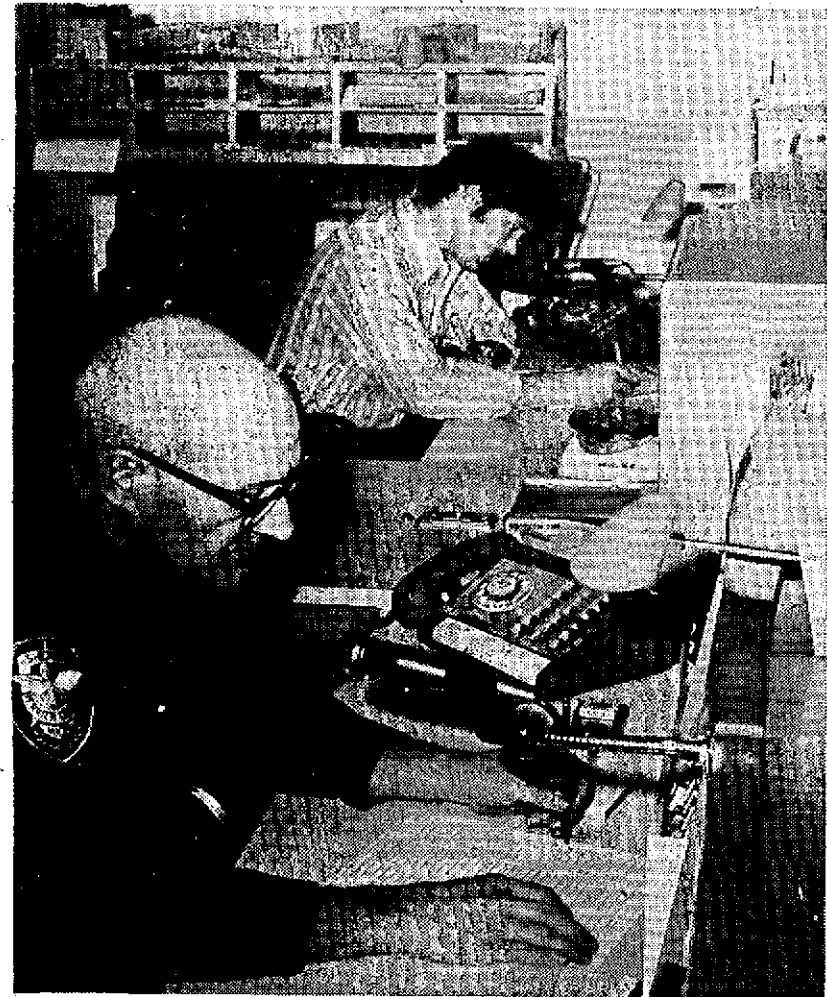
Over the past three years, the hospital has sustained operating loss totaling more than \$15,000, including depreciation, Pound said.

It is operating "in the black" for the first months of 1973, according to Marshall, but revenues would not be adequate to cover repayment of a \$381,000 loan.



HOSPITAL FUTURE AT ISSUE: Donald H. Pound, standing, hospital planning consultant of Danielson, Schultz & company, Lansing, reviews four alternatives for Douglas Community hospital in presentation to

large group of residents last night. Pound was joined at head table by Earl Sorenson, center, chairman of hospital board of trustees, and Derek Marshall, hospital administrator. (Staff photo)



COMMUNICATIONS BUREAU: Deputy Gerry Bryan, dispatcher, (foreground) and Lein operator Deputy Dean Kugle dispatch cars and run LEIN requests in wee hours of morning at Berrien sheriff's department. (Staff photo)

Van Buren Gas Tax Foes Call Petitions In

PAW PAW — A meeting has been scheduled for Saturday night here to count signatures on petitions asking that a recently-imposed two cents per gallon gas tax be submitted to a statewide referendum.

The petitions were circulated by a tripartisan group of persons who called themselves the Van Buren county Taxpayer's association.

James Wellington of Lacota, president of the group, said the petitions are being called in now so that the deadline of March 29 can

be safely met.

Other counties in the state are also sites for similar petition drives.

The Paw Paw meeting is scheduled for 8 p.m. at the First Federal Savings and Loan building.

The public is invited to attend, Wellington said.

The taxpayer's association is made up of members of the Republican, Democrat and American Independent parties.

Griffin Criticizes Cuts In Coast Guard

SOUTH HAVEN — U.S. Sen. Robert Griffin has joined South Haven officials in expressing concern over the scheduled closing of the South Haven Coast Guard station.

Griffin, R-Mich., has asked the Coast Guard to give further consideration to a plan to close six search and rescue stations in Michigan, effective April 1. He expressed his concern in a letter to Admiral Chester R. Bender, commandant of the Coast Guard.

"This cutback will place a heavy burden on remaining search and rescue stations in Michigan, and it is my understanding that no provision has been made for adding

vessels or personnel at stations that will continue in operation," Griffin wrote.

According to the Coast Guard, the six Michigan stations conducted 206 search and rescue missions in 1972. The South Haven station accounted for 67 of the missions.

"While it is true that the workload of each station was below the average nationwide, much of the safety effort is concentrated during peak recreational seasons," Griffin continued.

"These are not operations that can be handed over to state or local authorities. The responsibility for protecting life at sea is on the federal

government and the announced action by the Coast Guard could have a detrimental effect on water recreation in Michigan — the state with the largest number of recreational boats in the United States."

UPJOHN DIVIDEND

KALAMAZOO, Mich. (AP)—The board of directors of the Upjohn Co. approved Tuesday a regular 40 per cent quarterly dividend payable May 1 to shareholders of record April 6.

The board also voted to recommend to shareholders a 2-for-1 common stock split and an increase in authorized common shares from 20 to 40 million.